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U.S. Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Corporation. 1919. Pp. 76.)

Problems of industrial readjustment in the United States. Research report no. 15. (Boston: National Industrial Conference Board. 1919. Pp. 58. \$1.)

Reconstruction programs: a bibliography and digest. Reconstruction series, bull. no. 2. (New York: Joint Commission on Social Service of the Protestant Episcopal Church. 1919. Pp. 20.)

Report of the Indian Industrial Commission under the chairmanship of Sir Thomas Holland, K.C.S.I. (Madras: G. A. Natesan Co. 1919. Pp. 272. 1 rupee.)

St. Louis after the war. (St. Louis: City Plan Commission. 1918. Pp. 31.)

Taking stock of the future. Outlines of the plans of various foreign countries for commercial reconstruction. (New York: Guaranty Trust Co. 1918. Pp. 162.)

Agriculture, Mining, Forestry, and Fisheries

The Food Crisis and Americanism. By WILLIAM STULL. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1919. Pp. viii, 135. \$1.25.)

The author, so we are informed in the preface, went from the farm to a four-years' course in "one of the best agricultural universities, specializing in mathematics and agricultural chemistry," thence (apparently about 1878) to a position as representative of a farm mortgage company, and has followed this work ever since. He may therefore be expected to speak *ex cathedra* upon the ills of the American farmer. He believes that "the most serious and one of the most pressing questions of today is: What is the matter with American agriculture, that it is breaking down at the most critical period in the nation's history?" And to this question he replies: "Labor and marketing conditions are responsible for the present deplorable situation. These have grown out of the two basic evils: the one, that we have exalted idleness; the other, that we, as a people, have become over-commercialized." As a matter of fact, the author explores a much wider field of causation than that indicated in the quotation, but does not go very deeply into even the main points of this indictment.

It is asserted that our system of education "engenders an indifference to, if not a contempt for, labor—or at least a feeling that manual labor is very disagreeable, if not degrading." This is linked with the inordinate wages of union labor, to explain a

fatal shortage of farm help. The remedy suggested is that organized labor abandon the eight-hour day and that we set aside or at least mitigate our Chinese exclusion laws. The first "would release one in five of the number [of industrial workers] to be employed in agriculture, or to take the place of those less skilled, who would in turn be released for farm labor. . . . One Chinaman added to the present force on each farm would, at the end of the second year, add 25 per cent to 40 per cent to the present output, and soon increase this to 100 per cent." While these steps are urged as war measures (the book, though published in February, 1919, retains unaltered the point of view of July, 1918, when the preface was written), there is nothing to soften the implication that these measures would be effective in their action and proportionately desirable for the meeting of any less exigent food crisis of peace times. Next the Food Administration (Mr. Hoover excepted) is criticized for following a course which has forced on the producer "a constant loss, since November 1, 1917, averaging over 20 per cent on all hogs sold," and at least nearly equal injustice to the cattleman. Following this, a few bitter words on the public land policy serve to preface a sweeping denunciation of the federal land banks.

It might seem, now that the author is upon his own ground, that we should have more detailed analysis of the issue involved. However, only ten pages are devoted to this discussion and the argument confines itself to generalities and is extremely biased in its character. The main point is that the farm mortgage companies were given practically no part in the framing of the law, that the business can be handled much more cheaply by private agencies, and that it should be turned back to them at the earliest possible moment. "One's head swims," says the author, "when he attempts to compute the amount of this unnecessary burden, when, as they anticipate, the federal land banks shall have placed upon its books \$4,000,000,000 in farm mortgages." The reader can hardly avoid the feeling, as he notes the amazing statements in this discussion, that the author's head did, in truth, swim as he wrote.

The remainder of the book deals with the birth of class consciousness among American farmers, their increasing poverty and mortgage indebtedness, the evils of land speculation, the lack of adequate crop news, the need of developing water transportation, and the sins of the railroads, the packers, and other monopolies, with lengthy *obiter dicta* upon theories of soil fertility and the short-comings of the Federal Bureau of Soils.

There is sound wisdom in the fundamental idea which lies back of this book. It seeks to point out the lack of intelligent and sympathetic interest on the part of the public and of legislatures with reference to our great fundamental industry, agriculture. That the author himself is intelligent and sympathetic with regard to the farmer's needs, at times seems somewhat doubtful when we find him scouting the idea that there has been any scarcity of capital available for the farmer and when we find him advocating a plan by which the farm worker will be thrown into competition with the lowest grades of coolie and other immigrant labor. Throughout, the author proves too much; his attitude toward facts is far from scholarly, and his handling of figures is at best extremely reckless. What, for example, is the truth back of the assertion "it has for years been utterly impossible to secure more than half the necessary farm labor at any price" or "the chief opposition to Chinese labor comes from 'idle' and organized labor" or "the farmers have received no profit on hog-feeding during the war" or "in no country in Europe, during the last two decades, have the farmers received so little for their produce and the consumer paid so much for their foodstuffs as in this country." Assuredly we need and would welcome a careful and authentic study of any one of the issues raised in this small volume, particularly that dealing with the agricultural labor supply and its efficient use, or with the actual results of food control, or the present status of rural mortgage credit. But a brief discursive treatment of a wide range of these problems within so small a compass and by one not particularly qualified for the task merely muddies the waters of a pool that was already turbid enough.

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NEW BOOKS

ARNOLD, J. H. *A study of farming in southwestern Kentucky.* (Washington: Dept. Agriculture. 1918. Pp. 19.)

BOSWORTH, G. F. *Agriculture and the land.* (Cambridge, Eng.: University Press. 1917. Pp. vii, 93.)

BROOKE, W. E., editor. *The agricultural papers of George Washington.* Studies in American history. (Boston: Badger. 1919. Pp. 145. \$1.50.)

CHRISTIE, G. I. *Finding labor to harvest the food crops.* (Washington: Dept. Agriculture. 1918. Pp. 8.)

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